AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended): A method, for interconnecting a Multiplex Section Shared

Protection ring network with a Subnetwork Connection Protection ring network in a Dual Node

and Bridge & ~~Swicth~~ Switch architecture, the method comprising: ~~through~~

interconnecting a Multiplex Section Shared Protection ring network with a Subnetwork

Connection Protection ring network via a primary interconnection node and a

secondary interconnection node ~~connected~~ by an optical-fiber span, wherein said

primary interconnection node ~~comprising~~ comprises a means for performing a

Drop & Continue operation, and ~~a~~ only one Service Selector; and ~~for each circuit,~~

~~wherein the method comprises the step of:~~

closing said Subnetwork Connection Protection ring network through the Service

Selector of the primary interconnection node of the Multiplex Section Shared

Protection ring network, wherein said primary interconnection node is free of a

path selector.

2.   (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said step of~~ closing

said Subnetwork Connection Protection ring network through the Service Selector of the primary

node ~~comprises the steps~~, carried out in the primary interconnection node, ~~of~~ comprises:

receiving a signal entering the Multiplex Section Shared Protection ring network,

dropping it towards said Subnetwork Connection Protection ring network and

continuing it towards said secondary interconnection node by utilizing an optical

fiber span connecting said primary and secondary nodes;

selecting one signal, by means of said Service Selector, between

a signal coming from said Subnetwork Connection Protection ring network and

directly entering the primary node and

a signal coming from said Subnetwork Connection Protection ring network,

passed through the secondary node, and entering the primary node by

travelling down an optical-fiber span that connects the primary and

secondary nodes; and

sending said signal that has been selected by the Service Selector to the destination node

of the Multiplex Section Shared Protection ring network.

3.   (currently amended): A network element for interconnecting a Multiplex Section

Shared Protection ring network and a Subnetwork Connection Protection ring network in a Dual

Node and Bridge & Switch architecture, said <u>Dual n</u> <u>N</u>ode ~~comprising a~~ <u>comprises only one</u>

Service Selector ~~for each circuit,~~ wherein said Service Selector

selects one signal between:

a signal coming from said Subnetwork Connection Protection ring network and

directly entering ~~the~~ <u>a</u> primary node, and

a signal coming from said Subnetwork Connection Protection ring network,

passed through said a secondary node, and entering said primary node by

travelling down an optical-fiber span that connects the primary and

secondary nodes;[[,]] and

sends said selected signal to the destination node of the Multiplex Section Shared

Protection ring network, wherein said Dual Node is free of a path selector.

4.   (currently amended): A computer program comprising code adapted to perform

all of said steps of the method of claim 2, when said program is run on a computer.

5.   (currently amended): A computer-readable medium having a program recorded

thereon, said computer-readable medium comprising code adapted to perform all of said steps of

the method of claim 2 when said program is run on a computer.